

Groundwater Management

Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) is committed to a comprehensive and collaborative approach toward its local groundwater resources through a variety of Board-adopted initiatives designed to promote long-term water supply reliability.

EMWD operates 28 active potable and groundwater desalination wells that collectively provide approximately 16 percent of its overall water supply portfolio. That number is anticipated to grow in the coming decade through the development of a water banking program and continual expansion of EMWD's existing groundwater desalination program through the addition of a third desalter unit. The water banking program will store water for use in dry years and the desalter facility will further assist in the removal of salts from the basin, helping to improve water quality.

As part of its commitment toward long-term sustainability of the San Jacinto Groundwater Basin, EMWD has worked to develop long-range management plans that are compliant with both newly adopted state mandates and its responsibilities as part of the Hemet-San Jacinto Watermaster for the adjudicated portion of the east side of the San Jacinto basin. Through the collaborative Integrated Recharge and Recovery Program, EMWD and the other Watermaster agencies deliver an average of 7,500 acre-feet of recharge water into the San Jacinto Groundwater Basin each year.

In 2014, California adopted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, which mandates that all basins have Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) that are responsible for the long-term health and sustainability of groundwater basins. EMWD serves as the GSA for the West San Jacinto Groundwater Basin. Many of the roles of the GSA dovetail with efforts EMWD has made for more than two decades as the lead agency for the voluntary 1992 Assembly Bill 3030 efforts.



QUICK FACTS

16 active potable wells

12 active desalter wells

Provides for up to 16 percent of total EMWD water supply

EMWD's Integrated Recharge and Recovery Program delivers an average of 7,500 acre-feet of recharge water each year to recharge the San Jacinto Groundwater Basin

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Integrated Recharge and Recovery Program Ponds in San Jacinto

EMWD's responsibilities also include ensuring sufficient groundwater supplies for the region. EMWD is one of five member agencies of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) that is participating in a first-of-its-kind regional groundwater banking program. This program will provide a collaborative, regional watershed-scale approach toward long-term groundwater basin management, replenishment and water transfers, allowing the five agencies to collectively plan for extended dry periods while also conducting habitat restoration and assisting with the development of regional long-term water use efficiency programs.

This host of groundwater projects, known as EMWD's Groundwater Reliability Plus program, is EMWD's approach to securing the regions' water future. Groundwater Reliability Plus will introduce Water Banking and the exploration of the use of Purified Water Replenishment into the groundwater management projects already being conducted by EMWD—all in an effort to expand existing groundwater reliability efforts. These future efforts may include advanced treatment, followed by groundwater recharge of the advanced treated recycled water. That water would then be used to recharge local groundwater basins to eventually be extracted for drinking water purposes, creating a sustainable and locally-sourced water supply for the region.

Through these collaborative and multi-faceted approaches, EMWD is able to successfully manage and augment its groundwater supplies in an economically and environmentally responsible manner to provide long-term reliability for its customers.